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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,294	10/22/2003	Joseph Kuczynski	ROC920030247US1	2237
30206	7590	03/19/2004	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION ROCHESTER IP LAW DEPT. 917 3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/691,294	KUCZYNSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	<i>AW</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 10-18 are objected to because they have improper dependency.

Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bond et al. (4,911,644).

In regard to claim 1, Bond et al. discloses a connector for providing electrical connections to wiring on a printed circuit board 40, comprising: connector pads (column 4, lines 20-22) disposed within a contact region on the printed circuit board 40; an insulating substrate 41 having first and second sides; contact members 42 disposed within a contact region on the first side of the substrate 41, the contact region of the substrate 41 being aligned with the contact region of the printed circuit board 40; a compression mat 10 having compression fingers 43 that contact the second side of the substrate 41 in alignment with the contact regions on the first side; a clamping arrangement 25 that presses the compression mat 10 toward the printed circuit board 40; and a restrainer member 12 having holes 13 through which the compressor fingers 43 extend.

In regard to claim 2, Bond et al. discloses that the substrate 41 comprises a flexible plastic strip (column 4, lines 1-3).

In regard to claim 3, Bond et al. discloses that the restrainer member 12 is made of resilient material (column 3, lines 18-20).

In regard to claims 6 and 7, the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

In regard to claim 8, Bond et al. discloses that the restrainer member 12 comprises an injection-molded element that is subsequently attached to the compression mat 10.

In regard to claim 9, Bond et al. discloses a method for electrically connecting connector pads that are disposed within a contact region on a printed circuit board 40 to contact members 42 that are disposed within a contact region on a first side of an insulating substrate 41, comprising: (a) bracing compressor fingers 43 of a compression mat 10 with a restrainer member 12 having holes 13 through which the compressor fingers 43 extend; (b) placing the contract region of the substrate 41 in face-to-face relationship with the contact region of the printed circuit board 40; (c) positioning the

Art Unit: 2833

compression mat 10 adjacent a second side of the substrate, with the contact fingers 43 being aligned with the contact members 42 on the first side; and (d) pressing the compression mat 10 toward the printed circuit board 40.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bond et al. .

In regard to claims 4 and 5, Bond et al. discloses that the resilient material comprises Neoprene. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bond et al. invention by constructing the restrainer member of polyurethane having a Shore hardness of about A30 since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious engineering choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

Art Unit: 2833

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**THOD. TA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

tdt  
03/08/04